

Table 1. Summary of hypotheses, corresponding specific predictions, and results.

Hypotheses & Specific Predictions	Supported?	Results
<b>Tree size and microenvironment</b>		
<i>Across the forest vertical profile, taller trees are exposed to higher evaporative demand.</i>		
Taller trees experience higher wind speeds during the peak growing season months.	yes	Fig. 2
Taller trees experience lower humidity during the peak growing season months.	yes	Fig. 2
Taller trees experience higher air temperatures during the peak growing season months.	no	Fig. 2
Taller trees have more sun-exposed crowns.	yes	Fig. 2
<i>At least within the forest setting, taller trees are less drought resistant.</i>		
Rt decreases with height (H).	yes	Fig. 4; Tables S6, S7
<i>Small trees (lower root volume) in drier microhabitats have lower drought resistance.</i>		
There is a negative interactive effect between H and topographic wetness index.	(no)	Tables S6, S7
<b>Species traits</b>		
<i>Species' traits—particularly leaf hydraulic traits—predict drought resistance.</i>		
Wood density correlates (positively or negatively) to Rt.	-	Tables S4, S5
Leaf mass per area correlates positively to Rt.	-	Tables S4, S5
Ring-porous species have higher Rt than diffuse- or semi-ring- porous.	-	Tables S4, S5
Percent loss leaf area upon desiccation correlates negatively with Rt.	yes	Fig. 4; Tables S6, S7
Water potential at turgor loss correlates negatively with Rt.	(yes)	Fig. 4; Tables S6, S7

Parentheses indicate that the prediction was supported by one but not all of the top models (Table S6). Dash symbols indicate that the response was not significant (Table S4), or not represented in any of the top models (Table S6).

Table 2. Overview of analyzed species, listed in order of their relative contributions to woody stem productivity ( $ANPP_{stem}$ ) in the plot, along with numbers and sizes sampled, and species traits. Variable abbreviations are as in Table 3. DBH measurements are from the most recent ForestGEO census in 2018 (live trees) or tree mortality censuses in 2016 and 2017 (trees cored dead).

species	% $ANPP_{stem}$	n trees	contemporary DBH (cm)		species traits (mean +/- sd)				
			mean	range	$WD$ ( $g\ cm^{-3}$ )	$LMA$ ( $g\ cm^{-2}$ )	xylem porosity	$\pi_{tlp}$ (Mpa)	$PLA$ (%)
Liriodendron tulipifera (LITU)	47.1	98	36.85	10 - 100.4	$0.4 \pm 0.03$	$46.92 \pm 12.38$	diffuse	$-1.92 \pm 0.17$	$19.56 \pm 2.06$
Quercus alba (QUAL)	10.7	61	47.15	11.4 - 79.1	$0.61 \pm 0.02$	$75.8 \pm 11.05$	ring	$-2.58 \pm 0.08$	$8.52 \pm 0.37$
Quercus rubra (QRU)	10.1	69	54.88	11.07 - 148	$0.62 \pm 0.02$	$71.13 \pm 6.70$	ring	$-2.64 \pm 0.28$	$11.01 \pm 0.84$
Quercus velutina (QUVE)	7.8	77	54.14	16.02 - 114.2	$0.65 \pm 0.04$	$48.69 \pm 3.30$	ring	$-2.39 \pm 0.15$	$13.42 \pm 0.84$
Quercus montana (QUPR)	4.8	59	42.25	10.5 - 87.2	$0.61 \pm 0.01$	$71.77 \pm 40.17$	ring	$-2.36 \pm 0.09$	$11.75 \pm 1.37$
Fraxinus americana (FRAM)	3.8	62	35.36	6.4 - 94.73	$0.56 \pm 0.01$	$43.28 \pm 4.78$	ring	$-2.1 \pm 0.36$	$13.06 \pm 1.06$
Carya glabra (CAGL)	3.7	31	31.39	9.8 - 98.5	$0.62 \pm 0.04$	$42.76 \pm 0.94$	ring	$-2.13 \pm 0.50$	$21.09 \pm 5.48$
Juglans nigra (JUNI)	2.1	31	48.14	24.2 - 87	$1.09 \pm 0.09$	$72.13 \pm 7.10$	semi-ring*	$-2.76 \pm 0.21$	$24.64 \pm 8.72$
Carya cordiformis (CACO)	2.0	13	27.19	10.7 - 61.5	$0.83 \pm 0.10$	$45.86 \pm 15.60$	ring	$-2.13 \pm 0.45$	$17.22 \pm 2.25$
Carya tomentosa (CATO)	2.0	13	20.97	12.1 - 32.21	0.83	45.36	ring	-2.2	16.56
Fagus grandifolia (FAGR)	1.5	80	23.51	11.2 - 107.2	$0.62 \pm 0.03$	$30.68 \pm 4.94$	diffuse	-2.57	$9.45 \pm 1.25$
Carya ovalis (CAOVL)	1.1	23	35.29	14.9 - 66	$0.96 \pm 0.33$	$47.6 \pm 3.95$	ring	$-2.48 \pm 0.04$	$14.8 \pm 6.34$

\* Semi-ring porosity is intermediate between ring and diffuse. We group it with diffuse-porous species for more even division of species between categories.

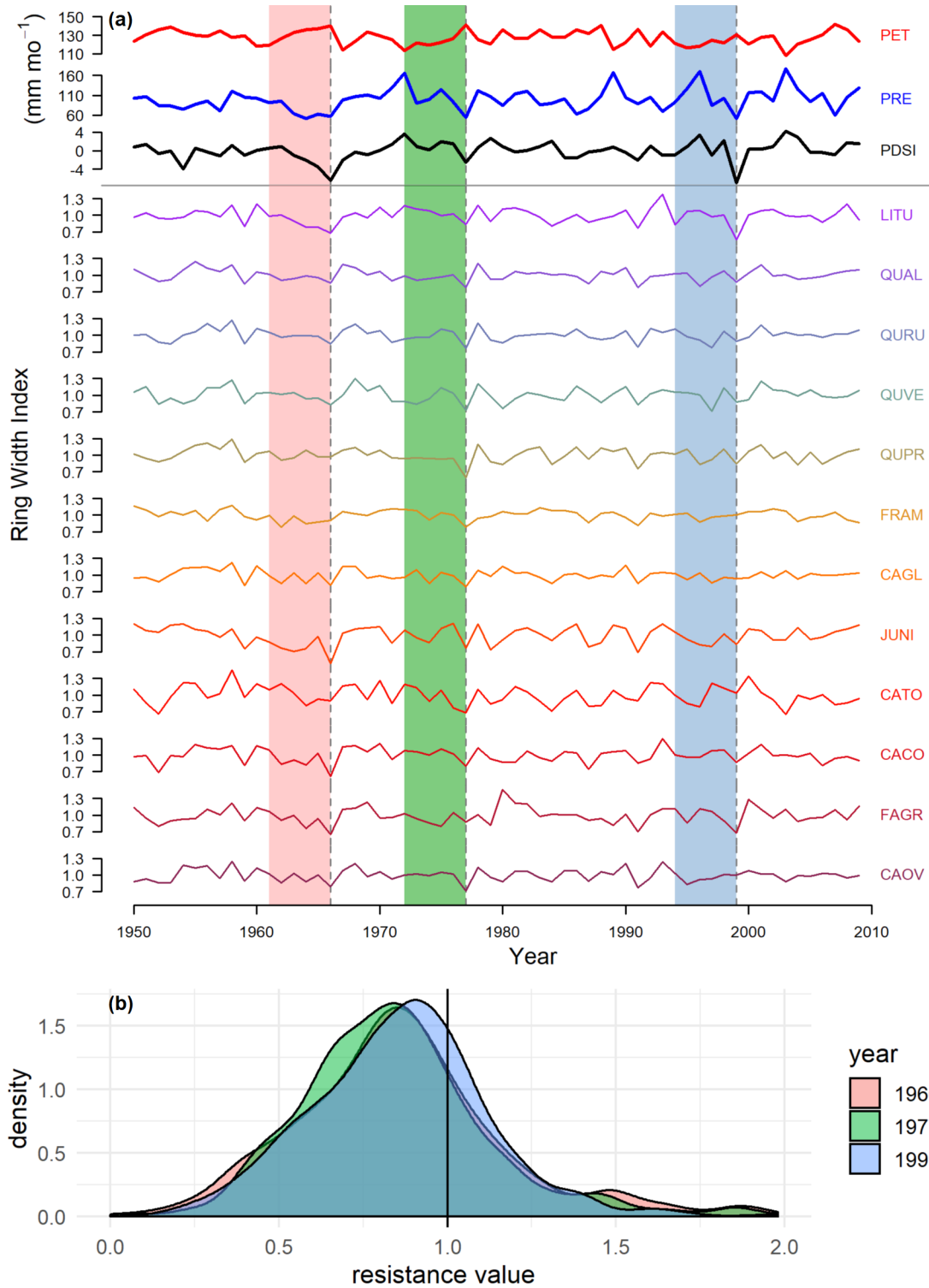
Table 3. Summary of dependent and independent variables in our statistical models fo drought resistance, along with units, definitions, and sample sizes.

variable	symbol	units	description	category	n*
<b>Dependent variables</b>					
drought resistance	$Rt$	-	ratio of growth during drought year to mean growth of the 5 years prior.	-	1623
	$Rt_{ARIMA}$	-	ratio of growth during drought year to growth predicted by ARIMA model.	-	1654
<b>Independent variables</b>					
drought year	$Y$	-	year of drought	1966 1977 1999	513 543 567
height	$H$	m	estimated H in drought year	-	-
topographic wetness index	$TWI$	-	steady-state wetness index based on slope and upstream contributing area	-	-
<i>species' traits</i>					
wood density	$WD$	$\text{g cm}^{-3}$	dry mass of a unit volume of fresh wood	-	-
leaf mass per area	$LMA$	$\text{kg m}^{-2}$	ratio of leaf dry mass to fresh leaf area	-	-
xylem porosity		-	vessel arrangement in xylem	ring (R) semi-ring (SR) diffuse (D)	408 31 178
turgor loss point	$\pi_{tlp}$	MPa	water potential at which leaves wilt	-	-
percent loss area	$PLA_{dry}$	%	percent loss of leaf area upon dessication	-	-

\*Sample sizes are after removal of outliers, and refer to the  $Rt$  model. Dashes indicate that the variable was available for all records.

## Figure Legends

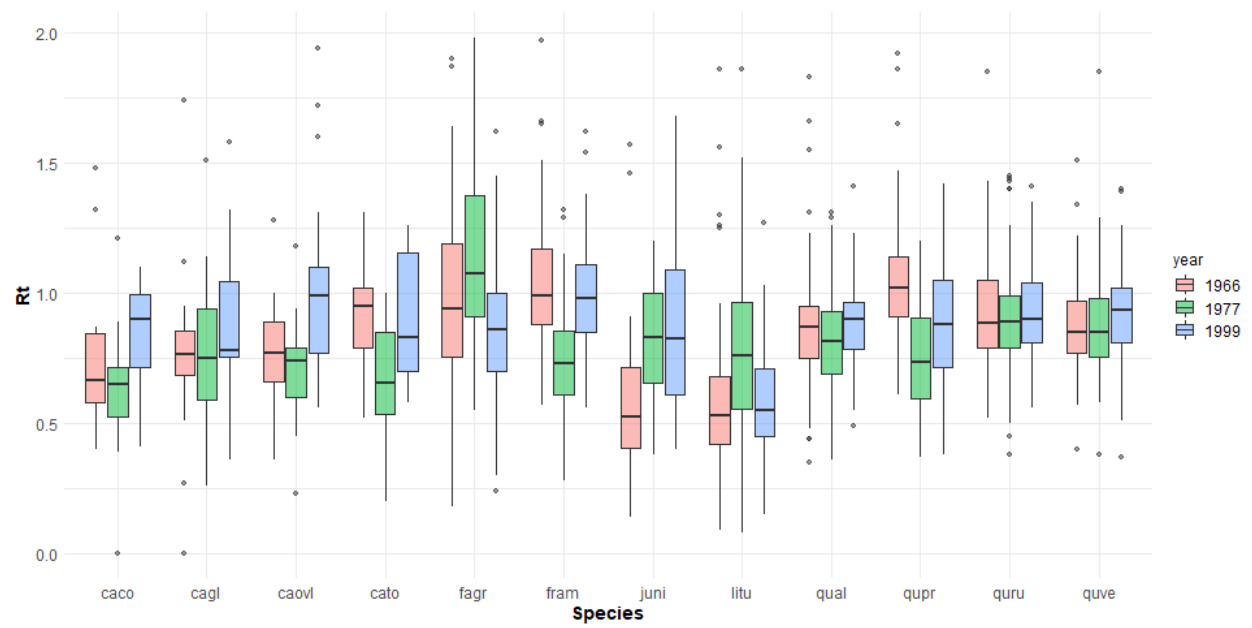
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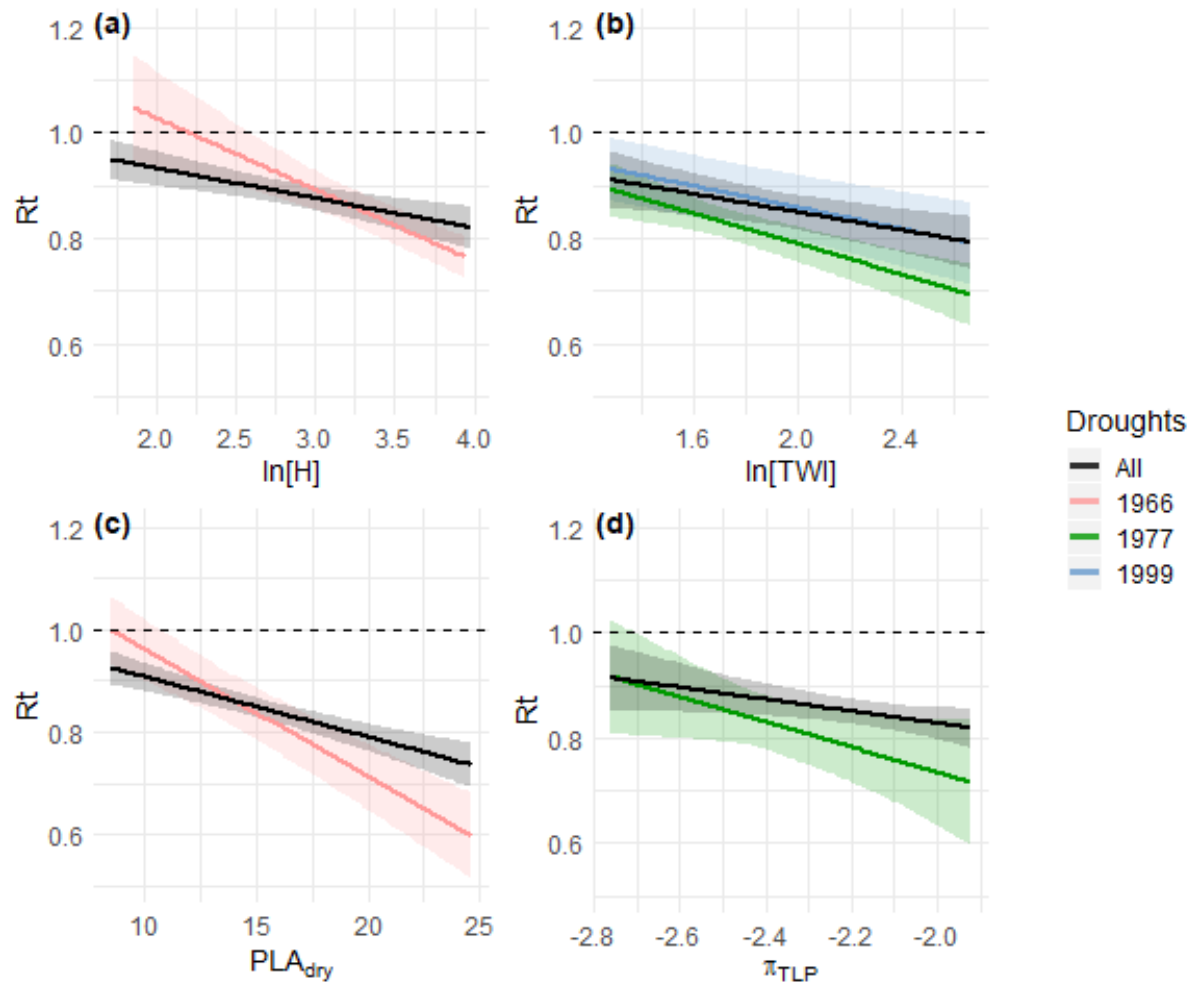
**Figure 1. Climate and species-level growth responses over our study period, highlighting the three focal droughts (a) and community-wide responses (b).** Time series plot (a) shows peak growing season (May-August) climate conditions and residual chronologies for each species (see Table 3 for codes). PET and PRE data were obtained from the Climatic Research Unit high-resolution gridded dataset (CRU TS v.4.01; Harris et al. 2014). Focal droughts are indicated by dashed lines, and shading indicates the pre-drought period used in calculations of the resistance metric. Figure modified from Helcoski *et al.* (2019). Density plots (b) show the distribution of resistance values for each drought.



**Figure 2. Contemporary height profiles in sun exposure and growing season microclimate under non-drought conditions.** Shown are average ( $\pm$  SD) of daily maxima and minima of (a) wind speed, (b) relative humidity ( $RH$ ), and (c) air temperature ( $T_{air}$ ) averaged over each month of the peak growing season (May-August) from 2016-2018. In these plots, heights are slightly offset for visualization purposes. Asterisks indicate significant differences between the top and bottom of the height profile. Also shown is (d) tree heights by 2018 crown position, with letters indicating significance groupings. In all plots, the dashed horizontal line indicates the 95th percentile of tree heights in the ForestGEO plot.



**Figure 3.** Drought resistance,  $R_t$ , across species for the three focal droughts. Species codes are given in Table 2.



**Figure 4. Visualization of best models for all droughts combined and for each individual drought year.** Confidence intervals were defined via bootstrapping in the bootpredictlme4 package. Model coefficients are given in Table S6.